

## UNIT 5 – USING THE RIGHT MODIFIER

### Adjectives vs. Adverb – Linking Verbs

Underline the correct modifier in these sentences.

1. It tastes (sweet, sweetly).
2. Did he feel (bad, badly)?
3. The game was played (poor, poorly).
4. The tea doesn't taste too (sweet, sweetly).
5. Mary appeared very (happy, happily) today.
6. The problem was done (correct, correctly).
7. Mother's writing always appears (neat, neatly).
8. His voice sounded very (shrill, shrilly).
9. Do you see (poor, poorly)?
10. The bell was (accurate, accurately).
11. Did the soda taste (sweet, sweetly)?
12. Dave's idea sounds very (sensible, sensibly).
13. The story seemed (unusual, unusually) short.
14. Does your sister always whisper so (soft, softly).
15. John ran as (fast, fastly) as he could.
16. For his age my little brother wrote (intelligent, intelligently).
17. Jean said that she felt very (warm, warmly).
18. Speak (distinct, distinctly), please.
19. Miss Jones told us to write more (neat, neatly).
20. Sue looked (beautiful, beautifully) in her new dress.

### Good and Well – Linking Verbs

After the linking verbs which are named below, use the word good. After these linking verbs, do not use well except when it means "in good health."

The linking verbs are : be, am, is, are, was, were, been, become, appear, seem, look, taste, smell, feel, sound.

Underline the correct modifier in these sentences.

1. The candy tastes (good, well).
2. He sings (good, well).
3. He felt (good, well).
4. The flower smells (good, well).
5. Does the garden look (good, well)?
6. He explained the lesion (good, well).
7. The water felt (good, well) on my brow.

8. He learned the poem (good, well).
9. The sundae tasted (good, well).
10. Does she feel (good, well) today?
11. Martha is a good violinist. She plays (good, well).
12. Joe spoke (good, well).
13. He ran that race (good, well).
14. The chorus sounded (good, well).
15. My oldest sister sews very (good, well).
16. I like it very (good, well).
17. Dad plays checkers really (good, well).
18. She has a good handwriting. She writes (good, well).
19. My daughter drives the car very (good, well).
20. How (good, well) she recites!

### **Comparison of Adjectives**

Adjectives may be inflected to denote a difference of degree.

EXAMPLE : Bert is tall. Bert is taller than his brother, Charles. Bert is the tallest boy in the class.

In these sentences tall is the simple form of the adjectives; taller denotes that Bert possesses more of the quality of tallness than his brother, Charles; tallest denotes that of three or more persons compared, Bert possess the greatest degree of the quality.

A change in the form of an adjective to denote a difference of degree is called comparison. The first degree denotes the simple form of the adjective. The second degree denotes that one object possesses more of a quality than another object. The third degree denotes that one object possesses the highest degree of a quality.

REMEMBER : Add –er to most adjective of one syllable and some adjectives of two syllables to form the second degree. Add –est to most adjectives of one syllable and some adjectives of two syllables to form the third degree.

Compare the following adjectives :

First degree	Second degree	Third degree
1. Swift		
2. Sunny		
3. Clean		
4. Pretty		
5. Young		
6. Neat		
7. Clear		
8. Small		

9. Bright
10. Sweet
11. Warm
12. Dirty
13. Calm
14. Large
15. Merry

REMEMBER : Add more or less to the first degree to form the second degree of adjectives of more than two syllables and certain others that would be difficult to pronounce with the –er ending.

Add most or least to the first degree to form the third degree of adjectives of more than two syllables and certain others that would be difficult to pronounce the –est ending.

A few adjectives are compared irregularly.

Compare the following adjectives :

First degree	Second degree	Third degree
1. Important		
2. Dangerous		
3. Difficult		
4. Thoughtful		
5. Comfortable		
6. Skillful		
7. Cautious		
8. Pleasant		
9. Truthful		
10. Tiresome		
11. Courteous		
12. Intelligent		
13. Expensive		
14. Frightened		
15. Famous		
16. Beautiful		

### **Common Errors-Double Negatives**

It is incorrect to use two negative words in a sentence. Learn the following negatives : not, no, hardly, scarcely, but, only, and never.

EXAMPLE :     Right – He had but a dollar.  
                   Wrong – He hadn't but a dollar.

If the sentence is correct, place C on the line preceding it; if it is incorrect, place I.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Is no one taking piano lessons now?
2. \_\_\_\_\_ I can't hardly see you in this fog.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ There was scarcely anybody at the concert.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Paula never tried to play before this year.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ I had played neither tennis nor golf before.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Isn't there nothing you don't know?
7. \_\_\_\_\_ There was no one left at the gate.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Mother can't hardly realize that winter is over.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Nobody gives nothing away.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ I couldn't scarcely hear the doorbell.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ Don't none of you remember Harold?
12. \_\_\_\_\_ There isn't no kind of ice cream that I don't like.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ Aren't you never going with me?
14. \_\_\_\_\_ We have neither food nor water in the refrigerator.
15. \_\_\_\_\_ There aren't no potatoes on the menu.

